GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5268
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
DECLINE IN PER-CAPITA FOOD AVAILABILITY
Sugavanam Shri E.G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), over 225 million Indians are chronically undernourished and there is a steady decline in per-capita food availability in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to improve the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): As per Food and Agriculture Organisation`s (FAO) publication titled `The State of Food Insecurity in the World, 2006` India has 212 million undernourished people. The per capita availability of foodgrains in the country has been fluctuating over the years, as may be seen from the table given below:

Year	Total Foodgrains (Kg.per year)
2003	159.7
2004	168.9
2005	154.2
2006(P)	162.3

(P) - Provisional

(c) & (d): In order to increase production and productivity and thereby the per capita availability, the Government has taken several initiatives like Integrated Cereals Development Programme (ICDP) for Rice, Wheat and Coarse Cereals under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture, Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), enhancing institutional credit flow to the farmers, ensuring timely availability of quality inputs, accelerating diversification to high value crops including horticulture, optimizing the efficient utilization of available water resources through micro irrigation and enhancing the sustainability of dryland/rain fed farming systems and reforming agricultural markets.